



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION
ADDENDUM TO THE MEDIA STATEMENT OF 15 MAY 2026**

**JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION'S DECISION ON A COMPLAINT LODGED BY
MR THOZAMILE SEMEKAZI AGAINST JUDGE BELINDA HARTLE OF THE
EASTERN CAPE DIVISION OF THE HIGH COURT**

[1] On 15 May 2026, the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) issued a media statement relating to the complaint lodged by Mr Thozamile Semekazi against Judge Belinda Hartle.

[2] The statement states that the JSC decided on 28 April 2026 that it is desirable that Judge Hartle is suspended. The media statement omits to mention that the JSC will advise the President, in accordance with section 19(4) of the JSC Act, read with section 177(3) of the Constitution of its decision that it is desirable that Judge Hartle be suspended and the conditions for such suspension.

[3] The power and decision to suspend a Judge lies with the President acting in terms of section 177(3).

[4] The JSC is aware of media reports that Judge Hartle has been suspended. This is incorrect and Judge Hartle continues to perform her duties. The media reports that Judge Hartle has been suspended arise from the JSC media statement which inadvertently omitted to mention that the JSC will advise the President to act in terms of section 177(3) of the Constitution. The JSC will advise the President accordingly. It follows that until the President has made a decision in terms of section 177(3), Judge Hartle continues to perform her duties.

Issued by the Secretariat of the Judicial Service Commission

Date: 16 May 2026

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